

Many folks do not realize it but the PALs have produced some great athletes over the years. New Mexico is proud of its native son, Danny Romero Jr., a former two-time world boxing champion and an alumnus of the New Mexico PAL program. According to Danny's father, the PAL philosophy taught his son life skills that he could not have learned any where else and kept him out of trouble.

Mr. President, I encourage the Senate to take up and pass this worthwhile legislation that expands a program with proven positive results. Just ask the 1.5 million children in more than 3,000 communities that the PAL program over the past 55 years has served. The PAL programs will change our youth's attitude toward police, will provide a variety of alternatives to criminal behavior and will positively influence a child's mental and physical well-being. I hope that my Senate colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1876. A bill to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to require a report to Congress; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING ACT

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the Science and Educational Networking Act with my colleague from West Virginia, Senator ROCKEFELLER. This legislation is a companion bill to legislation introduced in the other body by one of my Connecticut colleagues, JOHN LARSON and cosponsored by 49 other members.

Very simply, the Science and Educational Networking Act charts a course for the future for our schools and for education technology. Just as we cannot imagine schools and learning without books and pencils, computers and technology have become today a critical element in education. But like other tools, technology has its limits. Teachers must be trained to use technology in their teaching. Curriculum must incorporate and utilize technology. Students must have access to computers. Classroom technology must be connected, integrated and of high quality.

This legislation focuses specifically on this last element in the equation—the quality of the technology in our classrooms. Computers in and of themselves are amazing machines. But what is more powerful than their simple computing capacity is the connections students can make with them. From accessing the collection of museums and libraries to “chatting” with students from across the globe, computers have incredible potential to enrich our children's education. But in too many schools this potential goes unrealized because of outdated, inadequate or non-existent equipment and slow connections to the Internet.

Since the enactment and implementation of the e-rate, we have made substantial progress toward meeting our goal of connecting all schools and classrooms to the Internet. Since 1994, the percentage of schools with access to the Internet has more than doubled from 35 percent to 89 percent and the percentage of classrooms with access has risen from 3 percent to 51 percent. Gaps however remain. High income communities are more likely to have Internet access than low income schools with over 60 percent of classrooms in wealthier communities having Internet access compared to under 40 percent of low income classrooms.

Further limiting the benefit of the Internet and the World Wide Web is the actual capacity of a school's connection. Most schools are connected over regular telephone loans—although in many states even this is a problem. In my home state of Connecticut, four in five school districts report inadequate classroom access to telephone lines. And frankly, a regular telephone line just is not enough—trying to use the Internet with a regular telephone line can be frustratingly slow as data quickly overloads the capacity of these lines designed for telephones not computers. Students need access to high speed, large bandwidth capacity. Without these connections, it is like requiring our students to make their way only on the back roads rather than on the freeway.

High speed, large bandwidth connections, which are rare except in some of our nation's technological hubs, substantially increase the quality and capacity of Internet connections. The effect of these better connections is immediate—entering, searching and accessing the Web and the information it contains is faster and much more efficient. Much more important, in my view, is what this increased capacity will do for distance learning opportunities in our elementary and secondary schools. High speed, large bandwidth connections offer the potential of real-time, two-way video and audio interactions over the Net. This is where the promise of distance learning comes to fruition when students in a remote location or several remote locations participate in real time classroom activities.

This legislation will move us toward this promising goal. It will bring together leading experts in government to assess the capacity of our schools in this area, to explore the digital divide, to examine ways to better utilize this technology in schools and to report to Congress on how we can help schools meet these challenges.

Mr. President, this is an important first step if we are to make the promise of the Internet a reality for our children and schools. I ask that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill follows:

S. 1876

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Science and Educational Networking Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 103 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5513) is amended by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall submit to Congress, not later than December 31, 2001, a report that addresses the issues described in paragraph (3) and includes recommendations to address the issues identified in the report.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consult with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and such other Federal agencies and other education entities as the Director of the National Science Foundation considers appropriate.

“(3) ISSUES.—The report shall—

“(A) identify the current status of high-speed, large bandwidth capacity access to all public elementary and secondary schools and libraries in the United States;

“(B) identify how high-speed large bandwidth capacity access to the Internet to such schools and libraries can be effectively utilized within each school and library;

“(C) consider the effect that specific or regional circumstances may have on the ability of such institutions to acquire high-speed, large bandwidth capacity to achieve universal connectivity as an effective tool in the education process; and

“(D) include options and recommendations for the various entities responsible for elementary and secondary education to address the challenges and issues identified in the report.”.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes.

S. 93

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 93, a bill to improve and strengthen the budget process.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the time limitation on benefits for immunosuppressive drugs under the medicare program, to provide continued entitlement for such drugs for certain individuals after medicare benefits end, and to extend

certain medicare secondary payer requirements.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to provide matching grants for the construction, renovation and repair of school facilities in areas affected by Federal activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1158

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1158, a bill to allow the recovery of attorney's fees and costs by certain employers and labor organizations who are prevailing parties in proceedings brought against them by the National Labor Relations Board or by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

S. 1225

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1225, a bill to provide for a rural education initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1327, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide States with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help children make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1332, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Father Theodore M. Hesburg, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the Nation, and the global community.

S. 1341

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1341, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the applicability of section 179 which permits the expensing of certain depreciable assets.

S. 1526

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to taxpayers investing in entities seeking to provide capital to create new markets in low-income communities.

S. 1565

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to license America's Private Investment Companies and provide enhanced credit to stimulate private investment in low-income communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide that certain voluntary disclosures of violations of Federal law made as a result of a voluntary environmental audit shall not be subject to discovery or admitted into evidence during a judicial or administrative proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to protect the Social Security surplus by requiring a sequester to eliminate any deficit.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free distributions from qualified retirement plans of individuals residing in presidentially declared disaster areas.

S. 1800

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to improve on-site inspections of State food stamp programs, to provide grants to develop community partnerships and innovative outreach strategies for food stamp and related programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional support for and to expand clinical research programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide meaningful campaign finance reform through requiring better reporting, decreasing the role of soft money, and increasing individual contribution limits, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 32

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 32, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the guaranteed coverage of chiropractic services under the Medicare+Choice program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 128

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 128, a resolution designating March 2000, as "Arts Education Month."

SENATE RESOLUTION 196

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 196, a resolution commending the submarine force of the United States Navy on the 100th anniversary of the force.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69—REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAL STAMP HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAVAL SHIPYARD SYSTEM

Ms. SNOWE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 69

Whereas in the year 2000, the United States naval shipyards will celebrate 200 years of service to the Nation;

Whereas naval technology has proven invaluable to the Nation by strengthening national defense, preserving world maritime freedom, and producing scientific breakthroughs;

Whereas in peacetime, ships built in United States naval shipyards patrol around the clock to preserve peace and keep the United States free;

Whereas Kittery, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was the first major United States naval shipyard of the modern era;

Whereas on June 12, 2000, the Kittery, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its founding;

Whereas since its inception at Kittery, Portsmouth, the United States naval shipyard system has grown to include 11 facilities located on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii;

Whereas since 1800, United States naval shipyards have built hundreds of naval ships, and completed thousands of overhauls on ships of both the United States Navy and those of many United States allies;

Whereas today, the United States Navy is the preeminent naval force in the world, and ships constructed in United States naval shipyards have helped lead the way to victory in numerous global conflicts; and

Whereas United States naval shipyard workers, both past and present, have a well-deserved sense of pride in their accomplishments, which have kept our Navy strong and our country free: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress requests that—

(1) the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp in honor of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States naval shipyards; and

(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued.